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CHUNGKING DAILY NEWS

APR 20 1941

Chungking Wants Four Councilors

Representation Question May Involve Action by Foreign Powers

Informed Chinese circles state that the quarrel between the pro-Chungking and pro-Nanking groups of Chinese representatives for the four seats allotted to the Chinese on the Provisional Council is the settlement may eventually involve the question of recognition of the Nanking government and that, since the question is extremely important because it affects many powers represented in the new administration, it may delay operations of the new Council.

It is explained that all Councilors elected to serve in the new government administration must be approved by their respective governments and that since both Chungking and Nanking are demanding full representation the problem is a very difficult one to settle quickly. The Chungking group in Chungking may give assistance to some extent from Chungking to some extent of the pro-Chungking group of Chinese taxpayers discontinue work from the taxpayer group organized by Nanking here and stating that Nanking the new body of the Council.

Both Mr. Wang Shao-wei, the former Chinese ambassador and chairman, respectively, of the Taxpayers' Association of National Government in Nanking sent their telegrams to the Council expressing this view. The Ya-ching's telegram said it could possibly ally with the chairman of the new taxpayer group organized by Nanking here.

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Chinese Ratepayers Without Leaders

**Mr. Hsu Chi-chuan Staying
in Hongkong**

Mr. Hsu Chi-chuan, vice-chairman of the Chinese Ratepayers Association in the International Settlement who was recently reported by the Chinese press to have been "ill" and removed to a hospital in Shanghai, is now in Hongkong. Chinese reports from the colony state that Mr. Hsu has already reached there, but it is not mentioned whether or not he will visit Chungking.

He is said to have stated that he has left Shanghai in order to enable him to negotiate on "affairs related to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai and banking circles." The semi-civic leader is associated with all these circles. Owing to his departure, he is quoted as saying, he will stay in Hongkong for some time.

With the departure of Mr. Hsu from Shanghai pro-Chungking Chinese ratepayers in Shanghai are virtually left without any leader. Mr. Wang Shao-lai, chairman of their association, has been going to and fro between Hongkong and Chungking ever since the conclusion of the Shanghai hostilities. Mr. Wang has been directing the association's affairs from Hongkong as no reorganization of any Chinese public body is allowed by Chungking during the war of resistance.

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New Chinese S.M.C. Members Leave

**Mr. Cheng Ting-rih Said
To Have Gone to Colony;
Three Councillors Remain**

Another important development in Shanghai that is likely to produce political repercussions in regard to the Shanghai Municipal election, through which the Japanese are trying to obtain more representation, occurred here yesterday when it was announced by reliable Chinese circles that Mr. Chen Ting-rih, well known Chinese lawyer, who only recently was elected to succeed Mr. Eugene Y. P. Kiang, former Chinese member of the Shanghai Municipal Council, who has been blacklisted by Nanking, had also left Shanghai for Hongkong, thus leaving only three (out of five) Chinese members of the Council in the city.

It is important to note that Mr. Yu Ya-ching, doyen of Chinese members of the Council, and Mr. Chen, who have left the city, and the three remaining Chinese members of the Council have been re-elected for the ensuing year by the Chinese Ratepayers Association of the International Settlement, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Chungking. While the exact cause of Mr. Chen's departure at this moment could not be ascertained yesterday, Chinese circles in close touch with Council affairs expressed opinion over the situation, explaining that it would be hard for the three remaining councillors to do anything useful to maintain the status quo.

May Meet Mr. Yu Ya-ching

Mr. Chen left the city ostensibly for Hongkong on Sunday and whether or not he would meet Mr. Yu in Hongkong was a matter of speculation since Mr. Yu might have left for Chungking. Thus two most influential Chinese members of the Council are absent from the city. The remaining ones are Messrs. T. K. K. Gockson Kwok and T. K. Shu. The most influential Chinese ratepayers now are not in the city either. Besides Mr. Yu and Mr. Chen, Mr. Wang Shao-ai, president of the Chinese Ratepayers Association, has been staying in Hongkong since the Shanghai hostilities. His departure is also attached by Chinese circles. A recent announcement in the Chinese press that Mr. Wang had been blacklisted by Nanking.

Departments of these three influential members are all in Nanking. It is a matter of course that they will not be able to do anything to help the Chinese in Shanghai. They are, however, expected to return to Shanghai after obtaining permission from the Nanking government. It is also expected that they will be able to do something to help the Chinese in Shanghai.

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
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CHINESE BRANCH

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Ruo Pao, a mosquito paper, publishes the following comment.

A WORD TO THE CHINESE MEMBERS OF THE S.M.C.

The five Chinese members of the S.M.C. will remain in office for another year. They have rendered meritorious service for the people and are trusted by the residents. We would like to say a word to the five Chinese members.

The interests of the Chinese residents in the Settlement are under the care of the S.M.C., therefore, its administration is closely connected with the question of our livelihood. As the representatives of the Chinese residents in the administration of the Council, their actions will be closely watched by the people. So important is their duty that they must consider the interests of the people in every way; at the same time, they should make every effort to get rid of anything that is harmful to the people.

A study of the administration of the S.M.C. in past years shows that its administration is not at all good for our people. Take, for instance, the increase in the charges of the Shanghai Tramway Company, the Shanghai Telephone Company, the China General Omnibus Company and other public utility concerns. This is a matter which seriously concerns the interests of the residents, yet the Council has approved these increases. Of course, the Chinese members of the Council are not alone to be blamed, for they showed their opposition by refraining from voting in favour of the increases. However, this is not sufficient in the eyes of the residents.

Most of the residents in the Settlement are Chinese. The exchange is rising considerably and the Chinese people are in financial stringencies. It is certain that they will make more use of the public utility services. Thus, the increases in the charges of these public utility services are obviously more harmful to the Chinese. As they are not in a position to raise direct opposition, it is hoped that the Members of the Council will not give their approval, especially the Chinese members who should indicate their disapproval. Abstention from voting does no good and will only be regarded by the people as a way to evade responsibility.

In view of the tendency of commodity prices continuing to increase, it is natural that the charges of public utility services will be further increased. It is hoped that the Chinese members will, hereafter, struggle energetically and work for the welfare of the Chinese residents whatever may be the consequences. In that case, the people will know that the Chinese Councillors are truly working for the welfare of the people.

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